



U.S. Embassy Belmopan is pleased to announce the call for proposals for the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) 2022.

AWE Program Overview: The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) established the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) in 2019 to provide women with the knowledge, networks, and access they need to start and grow successful businesses. The AWE program (<https://eca.state.gov/awe/awe-around-world>) is a flexible educational opportunity that combines the online platform DreamBuilder with locally provided content, mentoring, and facilitation. Through AWE, women entrepreneurs participate in a facilitated entrepreneurship program supplemented with localized content, as well as networking and mentorship opportunities.

AWE Program Results: AWE reinforces peer-to-peer learning, networking, and cohesion among the graduating classes of women entrepreneurs, while also demonstrating local business growth. According to the 2021 AWE evaluation, after completing the AWE program, 74 percent of graduates reported higher incomes and 29 percent reported hiring additional staff in their businesses, generating income growth and job creation in the local community.

Eligibility: The U.S. Embassy is eligible to submit one proposal to the ECA for 2022 funding. Special consideration will be given to programs that:

- have an active ECA alumni network and demonstrate strong engagement of ECA alumni in AWE program design;
- have existing programs on women's economic empowerment;
- are willing collaborate with private and public sector partners on cost-sharing arrangements;
- commit to start programming by July 31, 2022.

Application Review Process: The AWE team in Alumni Affairs will screen all applications for technical eligibility based on the objectives, priorities, requirements, and will rate all technically eligible applications based on the following criteria:

- Degree of ECA alumni involvement in AWE implementation;
- Participation and support from local partners;
- Inclusion of cost-sharing mechanisms as direct and/or in-kind support;
- Strength of posts communication, media and outreach plans;
- Budget and budget narrative.

Competition Format: U.S. Embassy Belmopan is accepting proposals to support the implementation of the AWE program to train cohorts of women entrepreneurs. Interested applicants are encouraged to complete the [AWE 2022 Proposal Form](#) and [AWE 2022 Budget Form](#) submit to BelmopanPA@state.gov no later than November 30, 2021.

For questions, please contact BelmopanPA@state.gov.